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YALE UNIVERSITY  
NEW HAVEN CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Yale Community:

It is customary in the fall for the President to issue an Annual Report. I hope no one will feel deprived of an anticipated pleasure if I reveal now that a formal Report will be deferred until 1979. In its stead, I write of some of the events and thoughts of the past few months.

Since January, I have set for myself the goals of meeting and listening to as many people as possible and of making certain administrative appointments. I have traveled much within Yale, talking with Deans and Chairmen, various faculty groups, staff members and students. I have also consulted with Yale's alumni and friends in the City of New Haven and in various parts of the country. Those I have met, and the ideas I have received, have significantly enlarged my understanding of Yale's needs and opportunities. I have found these conversations indispensable.

Consultation has also resulted in collaboration, and a new administration has taken shape. With the departure of Hanna H. Gray for the Presidency of the University of Chicago, Abraham S. Goldstein, Sterling Professor of Law, has assumed the Provostship. Our Treasurer, John E. Ecklund, has retired and has been succeeded by Jerald L. Stevens, Vice President for Finance and Administration. Mr. Stevens was formerly the Secretary of Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Jaroslav Pelikan has returned to full-time teaching and research and the new Dean of the Graduate School is Wendell R. Garner, James Rowland Angell Professor of Psychology.

In the past year, the talk has largely been of financial stringency. Such talk comes at a moment when the national mood is one of contraction and caution; when a feeling of withdrawal, and a need to assess the distance traveled, seems to dominate. One senses, in some quarters, that the next twenty years are being prepared for by dismantling some of the promises, and many of the structures, of the last twenty.

It is wrong, however, to think our future will be any less vital than it traditionally has been. Since the end of the Second World War, university, and American, life has been marked by extraordinary intellectual and social ferment, and I know of no reason to believe the energies released in the last thirty

years will abate. Nor will Yale be any less engaged by the deepest forces in our culture. Thus, the challenges before us -- to use our resources wisely; to reflect in the institution the pluralistic nature of the people in America, and to foster the spirit pluralism embodies; and to nurture, despite savage pressure, excellent younger faculty -- will surely produce strains. There will be difficult times, here and everywhere, and our ingenuity will be tested by the constraints ahead. But those challenges, if met with candor and resolve, will also provide the occasion for new strength.

That strength will build on those already achieved, the strengths of a splendid faculty, a skilled staff, dedicated alumni and a diverse and immensely able student body. Whatever the changes, whatever the new patterns that emerge, there should be no doubt that Yale will continue to be strong, and will continue to fulfill the promises it made long ago to itself and to the nation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "A. Bartlett Giamatti".

A. Bartlett Giamatti

July 14, 1978